

“Maximizing Value for the Citizens of New Jersey”



Impact of the New Jersey State Commission on Cancer Research's Grant & Post – Doctoral Fellowship Program (1998 - 2004)

The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research was established in 1983 (Cancer Research Act of 1983 – P.L.83, Ch.6: T 52 91-u) to promote significant and original research in New Jersey into the causes, prevention, and treatment of cancer and to serve as a resource to providers and consumers of cancer services.

The Act provides \$1 million annually to:

1. Review and authorize all available funds to qualifying research institutions for approved projects. The Commission does this by:

- ◆ Supporting both the most promising new scientists seeking to break into the competitive world of cancer research and senior investigators seeking new cancer research directions.
- ◆ Training new scientists through its post-doctoral, pre-doctoral and summer fellowship programs.

2. Take the steps necessary within the state to encourage the development of new cancer research projects including those on its causes, treatment, psychosocial and behavioral aspects, or pain management and palliative care of persons diagnosed with cancer. It does this by:

- ◆ Promoting access to clinical trials throughout New Jersey, especially for minorities and the medically underserved.
- ◆ Enhancing quality of life of cancer patients and survivors.
- ◆ Educating patients, providers, and the public about new discoveries in cancer research.

EVALUTION & OUTCOMES

Governor Jon Corzine has called for “cost effective and functionally efficient government that will benefit and enhance the State’s economy, restore public confidence and allow for the continued delivery of vital programs.” While the NJCCR monitors its activities on a regular basis, it commissioned an independent evaluation of its operations to measure its efficiency and effectiveness against quantifiable data. The NJCCR enlisted the help of Dr. Dona Schneider and Mr. Christopher Hanson (Cancer Policy Graduate Fellow) at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy at Rutgers, The State University to provide an in depth assessment of its grant and fellowship programs.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

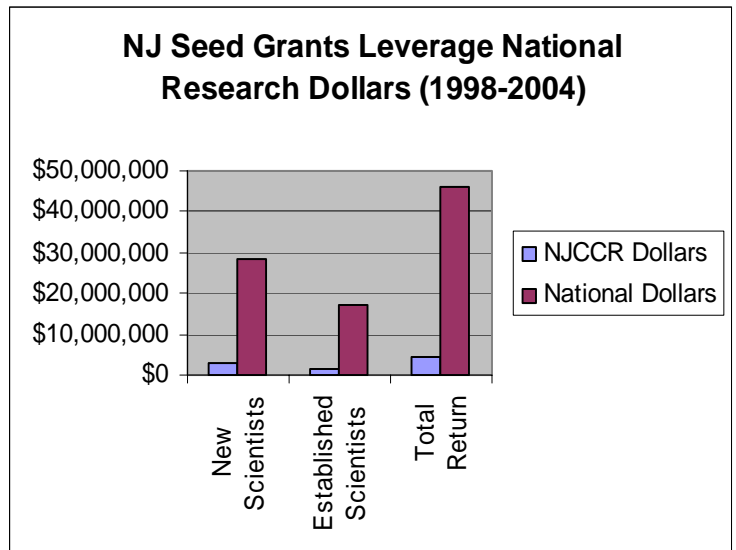
NJCCR applicants from years 1998-2004 (n=59) were surveyed and a response rate of 81.4% was obtained. Simplified grounded theory was applied to qualitative analysis of the responses.

RESULTS: NJCCR grant recipients are 4 times more successful in obtaining major national research grants than the average applicants across the nation. NJCCR awardees leverage over \$10 in new research dollars for every \$1 of NJCCR support.

(See back for details)

(con't)

- ◆ **More than 85% of NJCCR grant recipients go on to obtain major national grants within 4 years of their NJCCR award. This is 4 X better than national averages for scientists with new applications to major funding agencies.**
- ◆ **NJCCR grant recipients bring back \$10.44 for every state dollar awarded in new research dollars to New Jersey. Indirect costs to the institution increase this amount even more.**
- ◆ **8 out of 10 new scientists without any track record or grant history get major national grants within 4 years of their first NJCCR award.**



- ◆ **Reported Benefits to Grantees (Qualitative Analysis)**
 - ✓ Strengthens ability to compete successfully for larger grants.
 - ✓ Enhances capacity to change research direction.
 - ✓ Allows exploration of promising new ideas.
 - ✓ Increases opportunities for peer reviewed presentations and national collaborations.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

An evaluation of the effectiveness of NJCCR postdoctoral fellowships to stimulate cancer research activity between 1998 – 2004 was undertaken as follows. Twenty postdoctoral fellows were identified and surveyed. Thirteen responses were returned for a sixty five percent (65%) rate. The results are summarized below.

- ◆ **Secured Academic or Industry Positions**

Sixty nine percent (69%) of postdoctoral fellows who responded found academic or industry research positions within just 4 years of award.

- ◆ **Publications Produced**

Eighty five percent (85%) published at least two publications per study.

- ◆ **Benefits to Laboratory**

One hundred percent (100%) of sponsors rated the usefulness of the fellowship program as extremely or very useful to the development of their laboratories.

Sixty one percent (61%) of the fellows contributed to the laboratory's capacity to attract national funding in amounts between \$1.7 and \$3.5 million each.

- ◆ **Benefits to Fellows (Qualitative Results)**

- ✓ Enhances ability to begin new research direction.
- ✓ Results in new discovery or significant finding.
- ✓ Supports ability to attract national funding.
- ✓ Supervises training of graduate and undergraduate students.

Conclusion: The independent evaluation presented in this report demonstrates the outstanding effectiveness of the NJCCR strategies to promote original and significant cancer research in New Jersey.